



*Gateways to Information: Protecting Children and Strengthening Families*

## 2003 Child Abuse and Neglect State Statutes Series Statutes-at-a-Glance Central Registries/Reporting Records: Establishment and Maintenance

### What You Need to Know

Every State has developed procedures for maintaining records of child abuse and neglect. Most States maintain some sort of central registry, which is a centralized computerized database of child abuse and neglect investigation records. Approximately<sup>1</sup> 42 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico have statutorily created central registries. Registries in other States, however, may be maintained as a matter of administrative or agency policy rather than statutory mandate and are beyond the scope of this publication.

While a majority of States have statutes authorizing the establishment of a central registry, some States (including Maine, Minnesota, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) do not have statewide, centralized registries. In those States, records may be maintained by the agencies that received the reports of suspected abuse or neglect.

### The Purpose of Central Registries

Central registries and the systematic record keeping of child abuse and neglect reports serve to assist in the identification and protection of abused and neglected children. Reports contained in central registries are typically used to aid social services agencies in the investigation, treatment, and prevention of child abuse cases, and to maintain statistical information for staffing and funding purposes.

### Content and Maintenance

The type of information contained in central registries and department records varies from State to State, but usually includes the child's name and address; the name of the mother, father, or guardian; the name of any siblings; the nature of the harm to the child; the name of the alleged perpetrator(s); and the findings of any investigations. Some States maintain all investigated reports of abuse and neglect in their central registries, while others maintain only substantiated reports. Access to information maintained in registries and department records also varies among States.<sup>2</sup>



The Clearinghouses are services of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Statutes-at-a-Glance listings summarize specific sections of each State's code. While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on these topics may be found in other sections of a State's code as well as in agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures. Readers interested in interpretation of specific statutory provisions within an individual jurisdiction should consult with professionals within the State familiar with the statutes' implementation.

Statutes-at-a-Glance publications also are available on the Clearinghouse Web site (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/index.cfm>). Our online State Statutes database is searchable by State or Region.

<sup>1</sup> The word *approximately* is used throughout the State Statutes Series to stress the fact that statutes are constantly revised and updated. Colorado, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin currently do not have central registries mandated by statute.

<sup>2</sup> See *Statutes-at-a-Glance, Central Registries/Reporting Records: Disclosure of Confidential Records* (2003). For a discussion of the due process rights of individuals named in central registry records, see the Clearinghouse Issue Paper, *Due Process and Central Registries: An Overview of Issues and Perspectives* (2002). Both publications are available at <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/>.

**Alabama****Establishment****Statute: § 26-14-8**

The Department of Human Resources shall establish a statewide central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 26-14-8**

To contain reports of child abuse and neglect

**Contents****Statute: § 26-14-8**

- All information in written reports
- Final disposition of the report
- Treatment plan
- Names of persons requesting information from the registry

**Maintenance****Statute: § 26-14-8**

Requests for information where no report exists may be destroyed 3 years from the date of the request.

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**Alaska****Establishment****Statute: § 47.17.040(a)**

The Department of Health and Social Services shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 47.17.040(a)**

It shall contain all investigation reports but not the reports of harm.

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**American Samoa****Establishment****Statute: § 45.2020**

A central registry is established within the agency.

**Purpose****Statute: § 45.2021**

Reports in the registry are used to determine the existence of prior records in order to evaluate the circumstances of the child.

**Contents****Statute: § 45.2022**

- All information in written reports
- Final disposition of the report
- Treatment plan
- Services received
- Names of persons requesting information from the registry

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Arizona****Establishment****Statute: § 8-804(A)**

The Department of Economic Security shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 8-804.01(A)-(F)**

- To assess the safety and risk to a child
- To determine placement
- To determine type and level of services
- To assist in a criminal investigation
- To meet Federal and State reporting requirements

**Contents****Statute: § 8-804(A)-(B)**

The registry will maintain reports of child abuse and neglect that are substantiated and the outcome of investigations.

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Arkansas****Establishment****Statute: § 12-12-505**

There is established within the Department of Human Services a statewide central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 12-12-505**

The registry is used for the collection of records of cases involving allegations of child maltreatment that are determined to be true.

**Contents****Statute: § 12-12-505**

Records of cases where allegations are true shall be retained by the registry.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 12-12-505**

If an offender is convicted for the same act that is reported to the registry, the offender shall always remain on the registry.

Information shall be retained indefinitely to assist in future risk and safety assessment.

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**California****Establishment****Statute: Penal § 11170**

The Department of Justice shall maintain an index of all reports of child abuse and severe neglect.

**Purpose****Statute: Penal § 11170**

The Department of Justice shall notify an agency or a district attorney of any information maintained that is relevant.

**Contents****Statute: Penal § 11170**

The index shall not contain any reports that are unfounded.

The submitting agencies are responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and retention of reports.

**Maintenance****Statute: Penal § 11170**

The index shall be continually updated.

The Department may adopt rules governing record keeping and reporting.

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**Colorado****Establishment**

*Colorado has repealed the law providing for a central registry.*

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Connecticut****Establishment****Statute: § 17a-101k**

The Commissioner of Children and Families shall maintain a registry of reports of child abuse or neglect.

**Purpose****Statute: § 17a-101k**

To prevent or discover abuse of children

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**Contents****Statute: § 17a-101k**

The Commissioner shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 17a-101k**

The Commissioner shall establish a hearing process for any appeal by a person of a determination that a person is responsible for the abuse of a child.

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**Delaware****Establishment****Statute: Tit. 16, § 905**

The Division of Family Services shall maintain a central registry and information system.

**Purpose****Statute: Tit. 16, § 902(3)**

To provide information about persons the Division has substantiated to have committed child abuse or neglect.

**Contents****Statute: Tit. 16, §§ 902(9); 905**

- Reports of abuse or neglect of the child or other family members
- Investigations
- Family assessments
- Services
- Information from previous reports

**Maintenance****Statute: Tit. 16, § 906**

The Division shall update the information at regular intervals during the investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation or assessment, the system shall be updated to include a case finding.

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**District of Columbia****Establishment****Statute: § 4-1302.01**

The agency shall maintain a Child Protection Register.

**Purpose****Statute: § 4-1302.01**

- To maintain a confidential index of cases of abused or neglected children
- To assist in identification and treatment
- To serve as a resource for the evaluation and planning of services for children

**Contents****Statute: § 4-1302.02**

The following information about each substantiated and inconclusive report:

- Recipient of the report
- Date and time of the report
- Information required by § 4-1321.03
- Ward in which the child lives and demographic information
- Agencies to which the report was referred
- Results of any investigations
- Placements of the child
- Court actions
- Date the case was closed

**Maintenance****Statute: § 4-1302.02**

The staff that maintains the Register shall review all open cases every 6 months to assure that information is current.

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**Florida****Establishment****Statute: § 39.201**

The Department shall maintain an automated tracking system.

**Purpose****Statute: § 39.201**

- To immediately identify and locate prior reports of abuse
- To monitor and evaluate effectiveness of programs
- To track critical steps in the investigative process
- To serve as a resource for evaluation and planning of services

**Contents****Statute: § 39.202**

The Department shall make and keep reports and records of all cases relating to child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 39.202**

The Department shall preserve the records pertaining to a child and family until 7 years after the last entry was made or until the child is 18 years of age, whichever date is reached first.

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**Georgia****Establishment****Statute: § 49-5-181**

The Division of Family and Children Services shall establish and maintain a central registry.

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**Purpose****Statute: § 49-5-182**

The registry shall enable abuse investigators to:

- Immediately identify and locate prior reports of abuse
- Maintain and produce statistical data

**Contents****Statute: § 49-5-183**

- Name, age, sex, race of alleged child victim and child's parents or caretaker
- Name, age, sex, race of the person believed to have committed the abuse
- A summary of known details of the child abuse

**Maintenance****Statute: § 49-5-148**

The division shall include on the abuse registry the name of the alleged abuser, whether the report was confirmed or unconfirmed, and the investigator's report.

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**Guam****Establishment****Statute: Tit. 19, § 13208**

There shall be established in Child Protective Services:

- An active file of reports under investigation
- A central registry
- A 'suspected' file (for cases where an investigation is not able to determine whether a report is indicated, substantiated, or unsubstantiated)

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: Tit. 19, § 13208**

The central register shall consist of substantiated and indicated reports of abuse or neglect. It shall be limited to the following information:

- Names and home addresses of the subjects of the reports
- Dates; nature and extent of suspected abuse
- Age and sex of the children involved
- Locality in which harm occurred
- Classification of the report
- Progress of any legal proceedings

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Hawaii****Establishment****Statute: § 350-2(d)**

The Department of Human Services shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 350-2(d)**

It shall be a registry of reported child abuse or neglect cases.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 350-2(d)**

The Department may retain records and information of alleged abuse or neglect with respect to a child who is the subject of a report.

Reports of cases that are found to be unsubstantiated or are dismissed by a court shall be promptly expunged.

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**Idaho****Establishment****Statute: § 16-1623(c)**

The Department of Health and Welfare shall be required to maintain a central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 16-1623(c)**

For the reporting of child neglect, abuse, and abandonment information

**Contents****Statute: § 16-1623(f)**

Written records of investigations, evaluations, prognoses, and all orders concerning disposition or treatment

**Maintenance****Statute: § 16-1623(f)**

The Department shall keep the records of every person over whom it has legal custody.

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**Illinois****Establishment****Statute: Ch. 325, 5/7.7**

There shall be a central register of all cases of suspected child abuse or neglect maintained by the Department.

**Purpose****Statute: Ch. 325, 5/7.7**

To enable the Department to:

- Immediately identify and locate prior reports
  - Continuously monitor the current status of reports
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of laws and programs
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**Contents****Statute: Ch. 325, 5/7.9; 5/7.10**

Information from both oral and written reports, including:

- Names and addresses of the child and parents
- Child's age, sex, race, and school information
- Nature and extent of abuse
- Family composition
- Any other information

**Maintenance****Statute: Ch. 325, 5/7.7**

The Department shall maintain in the register for 3 years a listing of unfounded reports involving the death, sexual abuse, or serious physical injury of a child.

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**Indiana****Establishment****Statute: § 31-33-17-1**

The Division of Family and Children shall establish and maintain a centralized, computerized child abuse registry.

**Purpose****Statute: §§ 31-33-17-1; 31-33-17-7**

To organize and access data regarding substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect to enable the child protection service to:

- Identify and locate prior reports of abuse
- Track steps in the investigative process
- Produce statistical reports
- Serve as a resource for the evaluation and planning of services to children

**Contents****Statute: § 31-33-17-4**

Data regarding child abuse or neglect reports as follows, if known:

- Child's name
- Child's date of birth
- Alleged perpetrator's name
- Child's mother's name
- Child's father's name
- Name of sibling of the child
- Name of child's guardian or custodian, if applicable

**Maintenance****Statute: § 31-33-17-2**

A substantiated report may be entered only if at least one of the following applies:

- An arrest of the alleged perpetrator is made
- Criminal charges are filed against the alleged perpetrator
- A court determines that the child is in need of services
- A court approves a program of informal adjustment
- A person does not substantially comply with a service agreement

Unsubstantiated reports may not be entered.

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**Iowa****Establishment****Statute: § 235A.14**

There is created within the State Department of Human Services a central registry for child abuse information.

**Purpose****Statute: § 235A.14**

The registry shall collect, maintain, and disseminate child abuse information.

**Contents****Statute: § 235A.14**

Records of any previous reports of abuse of the same child or another child in the same family.

The registry shall include report data and disposition data. The registry shall not include assessment data.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 235A.14**

The Department shall organize and staff the registry and adopt rules for its operation.

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**Kansas****Establishment****Statute: § 38-1520**

There is established within and as part of the central repository, a child in need of care information system.

The system shall serve as a repository of information collected by juvenile justice agencies and reported to the system.

**Purpose****Statute: § 38-1520**

In order properly to advise the 3 branches of government on the operation of the juvenile justice system.

**Contents****Statute: § 38-1520**

Every juvenile justice agency shall report child in need of care information to the central repository.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 38-1520**

The director may determine, by rules and regulations, the reportable events to be reported in order to avoid duplication in reporting.

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**Kentucky****Establishment**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Louisiana****Establishment**

**Statute: Ch. Code art. 616**

The Department of Social Services shall maintain a central registry of all reports of abuse and neglect.

**Purpose**

**Statute: Ch. Code art. 616**

To provide information of past reports of abuse or neglect to assist in the proper evaluation of current reports, which may include a pattern of incidents.

**Contents**

**Statute: Ch. Code art. 616**

All reports of child abuse and neglect

**Maintenance**

**Statute: Ch. Code art. 616**

Any subsequent adjudication by a court that dismisses the child in need of care petition involving a report shall be added to the registry.

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**Maine****Establishment**

**Statute: Tit. 22, § 4004(2)(A)**

The Department shall receive reports of abuse and neglect.

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

**Statute: Tit. 22, § 4008(5)**

Unsubstantiated reports shall be retained for no more than 18 months unless a new referral has been received.

Unsubstantiated reports of persons eligible for Medicaid may be retained for 5 years for Federal audit purposes.

**Maryland****Establishment****Statute: Fam. Law § 5-714**

The Social Services Administration and each local department may maintain a central registry of cases reported under the reporting laws.

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: Fam. Law § 5-714**

A central registry may contain identifying information related to an investigation of abuse or neglect.

**Maintenance****Statute: Fam. Law § 5-714**

A central registry may not contain identifying information if abuse or neglect has been ruled out or the finding has been expunged in accordance with § 5-707.

The Department may identify an individual as responsible for abuse only if the individual has been found guilty of any criminal charge or been found responsible for indicated abuse or neglect and has unsuccessfully appealed the finding.

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**Massachusetts****Establishment****Statute: Ch. 119, § 51F**

The Department of Social Services shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: Ch. 119, §§ 51B; 51F**

The registry shall contain information sufficient to identify children whose names are reported pursuant to the reporting laws.

The Department may keep unsubstantiated reports to assist in future risk and safety assessments.

**Maintenance****Statute: Ch. 119, § 51B**

A notation shall be sent to the registry whenever further reports on a child are filed with the Department.

If an investigation determines that abuse or neglect did not occur, the report shall be classified 'allegation invalid,' and identifying information shall not be placed in the registry.

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**Michigan****Establishment****Statute: § 722.627**

The Family Independence Agency (FIA) shall maintain a statewide, electronic central registry.

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**Purpose****Statute: §§ 722.627; 722.622**

- To carry out the intent of the reporting laws
- To keep a record of all reports filed with the FIA

**Contents****Statute: § 722.622**

All reports filed with the FIA in which relevant and accurate evidence of child abuse or neglect is found to exist

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Minnesota****Establishment****Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 11(a)**

The local social services agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall maintain records concerning determinations of child maltreatment.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 11(a)**

Records that contain information relating to specific incidents of neglect or abuse and information relating to any prior incidents involving any of the same persons.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 626.556, Subd. 11(a)**

All records maintained shall be private information on individuals and not released except under the circumstances specified in the statute.

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**Mississippi****Establishment****Statute: § 43-21-257**

The Office of Youth Services shall maintain a State central registry of all cases obtained from the records of the youth court.

The Department of Human Services shall maintain a State central registry on neglect and abuse cases.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 43-21-257**

The State central registry on neglect and abuse cases shall contain:

- Name, address, and age of each child
- Nature of the harm reported
- Name and address of the person responsible for the care of the child
- Name and address of the substantiated perpetrator of the harm reported

**Maintenance****Statute: § 43-21-257**

The Department shall adopt rules and administrative procedures, especially those procedures to afford due process to individuals, as may be necessary.

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**Missouri****Establishment****Statute: § 210.145**

The Division of Family Services shall establish and maintain an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and maintaining reports.

**Purpose****Statute: § 210.145**

The information system shall have the ability to receive reports over a single, statewide toll-free number.

**Contents****Statute: § 210.145**

The information system shall contain:

- The results of all investigations
- Family assessments and services
- Identifying information on the subjects of the report and those responsible for the care of the child
- Other relevant dispositional information

**Maintenance****Statute: §§ 210.145; 210.152**

The information system shall be updated at regular intervals and at the completion of an investigation.

For investigation reports in the central registry, all identifying information shall be retained by the Division.

For investigations initiated by a mandated reporter, where insufficient evidence is found, information shall be retained for 10 years. For all other reports with insufficient evidence, information shall be retained for 2 years.

For reports where a family assessment was used, information shall be retained by the Division.

For reports in which the Division was unable to locate the child, information shall be retained 10 years.

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**Montana****Establishment****Statute: § 41-3-202**

The Department of Public Health and Human Services shall maintain a record system.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 41-3-202**

Records documenting investigations and determinations of child abuse and neglect cases

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**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Nebraska****Establishment****Statute: § 28-718**

There shall be a central register of child protection cases maintained in the Department of Social Services.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 28-720**

All cases in the central register shall be classified in one of the following categories:

- Court substantiated
- Petition to be filed
- Investigation inconclusive
- Unfounded report

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Nevada****Establishment****Statute: § 432.100**

A central registry shall be established and maintained in the central office of the Welfare Division.

**Purpose****Statute: § 432.100**

For the collection of information concerning abuse or neglect of a child

**Contents****Statute: § 432.100**

The central registry must contain:

- Information in any report
- Statistical information on the protective services provided
- Any other information determined to be in furtherance of the law

**Maintenance****Statute: § 432.110**

The Division shall maintain a record of the names and identifying data, dates, and circumstances of persons requesting or receiving information from the central registry.

**New Hampshire****Establishment****Statute: § 169-C:35**

There shall be established a State registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 169-C:35**

For the purpose of maintaining a record of founded reports of abuse and neglect

**Contents****Statute: § 169-C:35**

Founded reports shall be maintained in the central registry.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 169-C:35-a**

Screened out reports shall be maintained for 1 year.

An unfounded report shall be retained for 3 years.

A founded report shall be retained for 7 years.

The Department may retain generic, non-identifying information for State and Federal reporting purposes.

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**New Jersey****Establishment****Statute: § 9:6-8.11**

The Division of Youth and Family Services shall maintain the Central Registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 9:6-8.11**

Reports of abuse or neglect shall be forwarded to the central registry.

**Contents****Statute: § 9:6-8.10**

Reports shall contain, where possible:

- Names and addresses of the child and the parents or guardian
- The child's age
- The nature and extent of any injuries, including any evidence of previous injury
- Any other information that might be helpful

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**New Mexico****Establishment**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**New York****Establishment**

**Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 422**

There shall be established within the Department a statewide central register.

**Purpose**

**Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 422**

- To receive phone calls alleging child maltreatment
- To determine the existence of prior reports in order to evaluate the conditions or circumstances of a child

**Contents**

**Statute: Soc. Serv. Law § 422**

- All information in the written report
- A record of the final disposition of the report, including services offered and accepted
- The treatment plan
- Names of persons requesting information from the registry
- Any other information believed to be helpful

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**North Carolina****Establishment**

**Statute: § 7B-311**

The Department of Health and Human Services shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose**

**Statute: § 7B-311**

- To compile data for the appropriate study of the extent of abuse and neglect in the State.
- To identify repeated abuses of the same juvenile or other juveniles in the same family.

**Contents**

**Statute: § 7B-311**

Abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and child fatalities that are the result of alleged maltreatment.

**Maintenance**

**Statute: § 7B-311**

Data shall be confidential and subject to policies adopted by the Social Services Commission for its use and appropriate disclosure.

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**North Dakota****Establishment****Statute: § 50-25.1-05.5**

The Division of Health and Human Services shall maintain a child abuse information index.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 50-25.1-05.5**

All reports of decisions that services are required for child abuse, neglect, or death resulting from abuse or neglect.

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Northern Mariana Islands****Establishment**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Ohio****Establishment****Statute: § 2151.421**

The Department of Job and Family Services shall maintain a central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: § 2151.421**

In order to determine whether prior reports have been made in other counties concerning the child or other principals in the case.

**Contents****Statute: § 2151.421**

Each case that is reported to a public children services agency

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Oklahoma****Establishment****Statute: Tit. 10, § 7111**

There is established within the Department of Human Services an information system for maintenance of all reports.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Contents****Statute: Tit. 10, § 7111**

All reports of child abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. The records shall contain:

- All information in the written report
- A record of the final disposition
- Services offered and accepted
- Treatment plan
- Other relevant information

**Maintenance****Statute: Tit. 10, § 7111**

Records shall be maintained by the Department until as otherwise provided by law.

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**Oregon****Establishment****Statute: § 419B.030**

A central registry shall be established and maintained by the Department of Human Services.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 419B.030**

Local offices of the Department shall report to the registry in writing when an investigation shows reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 419B.030**

The registry shall contain current information from reports catalogued by both the name of the child and the name of the family.

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**Pennsylvania****Establishment****Statute: 23 Pa. § 6331**

There shall be established in the Department of Public Welfare:

- A pending complaint file
- A Statewide central register of child abuse of founded and indicated reports
- A file of unfounded reports awaiting expunction

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Contents****Statute: 23 Pa. § 6336**

The Statewide central register shall include and be limited to the following information:

- Names, social security numbers, ages, and sex of the subjects
- Dates and nature and extent of alleged abuse
- Family composition
- Name and relationship of the child to other persons
- Factors contributing to the abuse
- Source of the report
- Services planned or provided
- Whether the report is founded or indicated
- The progress of any legal proceedings
- Whether a criminal investigation has been done and the result of any prosecution

**Maintenance****Statute: 23 Pa. § 6338**

When the report is determined to be founded or indicated, it shall be expunged from the pending file and entered in to the central registry.

A subfile shall be created to retain indefinitely the names of perpetrators of child abuse and school employees who are the subjects of founded or indicated reports.

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**Puerto Rico****Establishment****Statute: Tit. 8, § 442f**

A central register of the referrals and protection cases shall be maintained through the Center for the Protection of Minors.

**Purpose****Statute: Tit. 8, § 442f**

- To allow the immediate location and identification of prior reports
- To ascertain the status of a case at any time
- To evaluate laws and programs through statistical analysis and other information

**Contents****Statute: Tit. 8, § 442f**

The Register shall contain, but not be limited to:

- All information in any written report
- Services offered and accepted
- Rehabilitation treatment plan
- Name, date, and other data regarding any person who requests information from the register
- Any other information that might be useful

**Maintenance**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Rhode Island****Establishment****Statute: § 42-72-7**

There shall be established a central registry within the Department for Children and Their Families.

**Purpose****Statute: § 42-72-7**

The central registry shall be responsible for the collection, receipt, dissemination, reporting, and maintenance of all files relating to children.

**Contents****Statute: § 42-72-7**

The central registry will be the main repository for all case files, and shall establish uniform forms and standards for data acquisition and transmission.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 40-11-3(a)**

The electronically recorded records, properly indexed by date and other essential identifying data, shall be maintained for a minimum of 3 years.

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**South Carolina****Establishment****Statute: § 20-7-680**

The Department of Social Services must maintain a Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect with the child protective services unit.

**Purpose****Statute: § 20-7-680**

- To establish a system of for the identification of abused and neglected children
- To coordinate reports
- To provide data for determining the incidence and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in the State

**Contents****Statute: § 20-7-680**

Each entry must be accompanied by information identifying the person, including:

- The person's date of birth and address
- Any other identifying characteristics
- A description of the abuse or neglect committed

**Maintenance****Statute: § 20-7-680**

Perpetrators must be entered in the registry only by order of a court.

The Registry must not contain information from reports classified as unfounded.

**South Dakota****Establishment****Statute: § 26-8A-10**

The Department of Social Services shall be the central registry for reports.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 26-8A-10**

A report shall include:

- Name, address, date and place of birth of the child
- Name and address of the child's parent, guardian, or other responsible person
- Date of report
- Suspected or proven instances of abuse or neglect

**Maintenance****Statute: § 26-8A-12**

The Department will adopt rules for the operation of the registry:

- Filing of reports
  - Procedures for notice to the subject of the report
  - Amendment and expunction
  - Release of information
  - Statistical information
  - Provisions for maintenance of records and the type of information placed in the registry
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**Tennessee****Establishment****Statute: § 37-1-406**

The Department of Children's Services shall maintain an abuse registry.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: § 37-1-406**

The findings of investigations of reports of child abuse or neglect

**Maintenance****Statute: § 37-1-406**

Not later than 60 days after receiving the initial report, the department shall determine whether a report of abuse was indicated or unfounded and report its findings to the abuse registry.

**Texas****Establishment****Statute: Family Code § 261.002**

The Department of Protective and Regulatory Services shall establish and maintain a central registry.

**Purpose****Statute: Family Code § 261.002**

The rules shall provide for cooperation with local child services agencies and with other States in exchanging reports.

**Contents****Statute: Family Code § 261.002**

Reported cases of child abuse or neglect

**Maintenance****Statute: Family Code § 261.002**

The department may adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

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**Utah****Establishment****Statute: § 62A-4a-116**

The Division shall develop and implement a management information system that meets the requirements of this section and Federal law and regulation.

**Purpose****Statute: § 62A-4a-116**

To monitor the compliance of each case with division rule and policy and State and Federal law and regulation.

In order to ensure accuracy regarding identification, the record shall include the age and date of birth of the alleged perpetrator.

**Contents****Statute: § 62A-4a-116**

All child welfare cases and all child protective services cases.

It shall provide a complete history of each child in a worker's caseload, including:

- A record of all past action taken by the division
- Cumulative time the child has been custody
- A record of all reports of abuse received about the parents or guardian
- Number of times the parent or guardian has failed any treatment plan
- Number of different caseworkers that have been assigned to the child in the past

**Maintenance****Statute: § 62A-4a-116**

The management information system shall also:

- Contain all key elements of each family's current treatment plan, including dates and number of times the plan has been judicially reviewed, the number of times the parent has failed that treatment plan, and the length of time the plan has been in effect
- Alert caseworkers regarding deadlines for completion of compliance with policy, including treatment plans

**Vermont****Establishment****Statute: Tit. 33, § 4916**

The Commissioner of Social and Rehabilitation Services shall maintain a registry.

**Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents****Statute: Tit. 33, § 4916**

The registry will contain written records of all investigations initiated under § 4915 unless the report has been determined to be unsubstantiated.

**Maintenance****Statute: Tit. 33, § 4916**

All registry records shall be maintained according to the name of the child who has been abused and the name of the person about whom the report was made.

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**Virgin Islands****Establishment**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Purpose**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Contents**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

**Maintenance**

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

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**Virginia****Establishment****Statute: § 63.2-1514**

The Department shall maintain a child abuse and neglect information system that includes a central registry of founded complaints.

**Purpose****Statute: § 63.2-1514**

To provide local departments with information regarding prior complaints or reports

**Contents****Statute: §§ 63.2-1514; 1515**

The Central Registry shall include founded reports and such information as prescribed by State board regulation.

When the founded case does not name a parent or guardian of the child as the abuser, the child's name shall not be entered in the registry without permission of the parent or guardian.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 63.2-1514**

The department shall maintain all unfounded investigations, family assessments, and reports determined not to be valid separate from the central registry.

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These records are accessible only to the department and local departments.

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### ***Washington***

#### **Establishment**

**Statute: § 26.44.030**

The department shall maintain investigation records.

#### **Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

#### **Contents**

**Statute: § 26.44.030**

The department shall maintain investigation records and shall maintain a log of screened-out nonabusive cases.

#### **Maintenance**

**Statute: § 26.44.030**

The department shall conduct timely and periodic reviews of all cases constituting abuse and neglect.

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### ***West Virginia***

#### **Establishment**

**Statute: § 49-6A-9**

Each local child protective service office shall receive reports.

#### **Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

#### **Contents**

**Statute: § 49-6A-9**

All reports of children known or suspected to be abused or neglected

#### **Maintenance**

**Statute: § 49-6A-9**

Each local office shall cross-file all such reports under the names of the children, the family, and any person substantiated as being an abuser by investigation of the Department of Health and Human Resources, with the use of such person's name limited to the internal use of the department.

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### ***Wisconsin***

#### **Establishment**

**Statute: § 48.981**

The agency shall maintain a record of its actions in connection with each report it receives.

#### **Purpose**

Not specifically addressed in statutes reviewed

#### **Contents**

**Statute: § 48.981**

The records shall include a description of the services provided to the child and to the parents or guardian of the child.

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**Maintenance****Statute: § 48.981**

The agency shall update the record every 6 months until the case is closed.

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**Wyoming****Establishment****Statute: § 14-3-213**

The State agency shall establish and maintain within the statewide child protection center a central registry of child protection cases.

**Purpose****Statute: § 14-3-213**

- To immediately identify and locate prior reports and assist in diagnosis of suspicious circumstances and assess the needs of the child
- To monitor the status of pending cases
- To evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and programs

**Contents****Statute: § 14-3-213**

All reports of abuse or neglect shall be classified in one of the following categories: under investigation, founded, or closed.

Any person named as a perpetrator in a substantiated report shall have a right to have included in the record his statement concerning the incident.

**Maintenance****Statute: § 14-3-213**

Within 6 months any report classified 'under investigation' shall be reclassified 'founded' or 'closed' depending on the results of the investigation.

Unfounded reports shall be expunged from the central registry.